

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06985 031454Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 /077 W
-----008025 031811Z /75

R 031004Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL
SECSTATE WASHDC 1364
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCOHSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, IN, AF
SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS COMMENT ON AFGHAN COUP - PART II

REF: NEW DELHI 6839 (NOTAL)

1. THE NEW DELHI PRESS GAVE WODE COVERAGE MAY 3 TO
REPORTS OF INDIAN AMBASSADOR S.K. SINGH'S MAY 1
MEETING WITH AFGHAN PRIME MINISTER TARAKI, DURING
WHICH AMBASSADOR SINGH INFORMED TARAKI OF THE GOI'S
RECOGNITION OF THE NEW REGIME. AMBASSADOR SINGH IS
REPORTED TO HAVE ASSURED TARAKI THAT INDO-AFGHAN
RELATIONS CONTINUE TO BE BASED ON DEEP UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL
ISSUES AS WELL AS ON BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE
ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS;
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AND, FURTHER, THAT THESE RELATIONS EXIST IRRESPECTIVE
OF THE PERSONALITIES OF THE LEADERS IN EITHER COUNTRY.

2. ON MAY 3 BOTH THE PRO-CONGRESS (I) "NATIONAL HEARLD"
AND "TIMES OF INDIA" EDITOR GIRILA JAIN (IN A SIGNED
ARTICLE) NOTED THE CIVILIAN CHARACTER OF THE NEW AFGHAN
GOVERNMENT AND PASIED THE GOI'S PROMPT RECOGNITION OF

IT, SPECULATED ON THE DEGREE OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP, PREDICTED THAT ISLAMABAD AND TEHRAN WOULD BE CLOSELY FOLLOWING EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, AND CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO REASON WHY INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN COULD NOT CONTINUE THEIR PAST COOPERATION. JAIN COMMENTED THAT THE USSR HAS OF LATE BEEN PURSUING A HARDER LINE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US, AS EVIDENCED BY SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, AND E OFFERED TWO MOTIVES WHICH MIGHT HAVE LED TO SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN DAOUD'S OVERTHROW:

1) TO INDUCE GREATER RESPECT IN IRAN AND PAKISTAN FOR SOVIET INTERESTS IN SOUTH ASIA; AND

2) REFERRING TO MRS. GANDHI'S CHARGE THAT THE CIA ENGINEERED HER ELECTORAL DEFEAT AS WELL AS THE OUSTERS OF SHEIKH MJIB AND BHUTTO, TO REGAIN AND PROTECT THE US-USSR BALANCE OF INFLUENCE IN SOUTH ASIA.

JAIN DOUBTS THAT A SOVIET-CONTROLLED AFGHANISTAN WOULD IMMEDIATELY SEEK TO ALTER ITS REGIONAL ROLE BECAUSE TO DO SO MIGHT ALARM AFGHANISTAN'S NEIGHBORS AND DRIVE THEM CLOSER TO THE WEST THAN THEY MIGHT OTHERWISE WISH TO BE. HE ALSO WELCOMED THE EMERGENCE OF "SECULAR ELEMENTS" AT THE HELM IN AFGHANISTAN AT A TIME WHEN "OBSCURANTISM" IS TRIUMPHING IN ONE MUSLIM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRY AFTER ANOTHER, INCLUDING PAKISTAN.

3. DECLASSIFY ON RECEIPT.
GOHEEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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